Rural development benefits to rural population in proximity of urban areas

2176. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with fast urbanisation of villages in proximity of cities and towns, large number of villages and rural population is deprived of the benefits of various rural development and anti-poverty schemes and programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and being taken by Government to ensure that such poor rural population is not deprived of such benefits and get the protection of various laws and enactments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTAPATIL): (a) and (b) All the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are implemented in all rural areas of all the States/UTs in the country except Chandigarh and Delhi. These schemes focus on proverty alleviation, employment generation, area development and improvement of quality of life of the families living Below Proverty Line (BPL).

Steps for better economic condition of rural people

2177. SHRI M.A.M RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per estimates 10 per cent of the total world population and 70 per cent of India's population lives in rural India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the per capita income of the rural population is just Rs. 50 a day and this large population is isolated in terms of access to information, material and market; and

(c) if so, the steps the Central Government has taken or propose to take to provide easy access to market to the rural people and thus enhance their economic condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTAPATIL): (a) According to one estimate 52.3 per cent of the world population live in rural areas during 2004. According to Population Census 2001, the rural population of India is 72.22 per cent.